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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q65536

Kazuhiro KUSUDA

Appln. No.: 09/910,070

Group Art Unit: 3747

Confirmation No.: 2546

Examiner: Andrew M. Dolinar

Filed: July 23, 2001

For: NETWORK GAME UNIT, GAME SYSTEM, AND RECORDING MEDIUM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

JUL 15 2004
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (without a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore a check for the fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is attached.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/910,070

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

In addition Applicant submits the following explanations: Japanese Patent Publication Nos. 11-168581A and 10-198611A, each disclose a network game in which a plurality of players are allowed to participate. These publications each teach a participation request issued after the number of players participating the game reaches the full quota is not accepted (cf., Col. 7, Lines 15-20 of 11-168581 and Col. 5, Lines 15-17 of 10-198611.)

Japanese Patent Publication No. 8-829A, teaches that characteristic data of a racing horse is transmitted from a user game device to a central control device, and the central control device analyzes the characteristic data to transmit race data to the user game device. The race data is data of a race to which a user who transmitted the characteristic data can participate (cf., Col 10, Lines 2-14).

Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-253657A, teaches that a user who has waited for longer time to participate a game is allowed to participate with higher priority (cf., Col. 7, Lines 29 and 30).

Japanese Patent Publication No. 2000-116956, a game system shown in Fig 3 is pertinent to the subject matter of Claims 8 and 12.

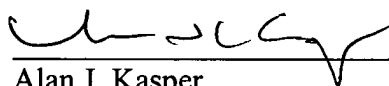
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan J. Kasper
Registration No. 25,426

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 8, 2004

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		JP	11-168581	A	06/22/1999		
		JP	10-198611	A	07/31/1998		
		JP	8-829	A	01/09/1996		
		JP	11-253657	A	09/21/1999		
		JP	2000-116956	A	04/25/2000		
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¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.